WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
-7 SEP 1950
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DOLGELLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

For the Year 1949

Medical Officer of Health :
R. W. EDWARDS, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :
FF. EVANS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

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ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 1949

To the Chairman and Members of the Dolgelley Urban District Council.

I have the honour of presenting to you, this, my Annual Report for the year 1949.

It is not usual, perhaps, to mention civic events in a report such as this, but I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without making reference to the Royal Visit in April, and the National Eisteddfod in August. These two events, especially the latter, brought an influx of visitors into the town. It is gratifying to record that with so many people coming from all corners of the globe during August week no unusual illness of any kind occurred and there were no complaints regarding the condition, handling, etc., of our food supplies. The Water Company were also able to maintain an ample supply of water in face of the abnormal population and the drought.

In connection with the Eisteddfod I would like to record the general satisfaction that the Public Conveniences at Cae Marian Park had been completed and in use, and that such excellent arrangements had been made at the Eisteddfod field regarding Sanitary accommodation, water supply and disinfection. Our thanks are due to Messrs. Newton, Chambers & Co., of Sheffield, who generously provided material and personnel towards safeguarding the health of those who attended.

The construction of the extension sewer to serve the North side of the Town was commenced during the year and the completing of all the connections will be a great improvement, abating some of the nuisance arising from the pollution of the River Wnion.

Further progress was made on the provision of new houses, but it is to be regretted that, only the 19 houses mentioned in my last report were completed during the year.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	1,127
Population (R.G. Estimate)	2,517
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1949)	700
Rateable Value	£10,559
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£37/7/1
Density of Population	2.23

VITAL STATISTICS:

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	15	16	31
Illegitimate	2	0	2

Birth Rate 13.11 per 1,000 of population.
Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.7 per 1,000 of population.

Still Births:	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Still Birth Rate 0.40 per 1,000 of population.
(Rate for England and Wales 0.39 per 1,000 of population).

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births: Nil.
Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 Live Births 32.0.

DEATHS:

M.	F.	Total
10	18	28

Death Rate per 1,000 of population ...	11.12
Comparability Factor	0.97
Corrected Death Rate	10.79
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7

Other Death Rates (corrected):

		England and Wales
Tuberculosis	0.00	0.45
Whooping Cough.....	0.00	0.01
Influenza	0.00	0.15
Pneumonia	0.39	0.51

Causes of Death:

Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5
Heart Diseases	5
Cancer (all forms)	8
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia	1
Nephritis	1
Road Accident	1
Other Causes	4

It is to be noted that no deaths occurred from a Notifiable Infectious Disease.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (Staff):

1 Medical Officer (part time).
1 Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (full time).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis):

Only two cases were notified during the year.

One case of Measles—Male aged 13 years.
One case of Whooping Cough—Female aged 1 year.

TUBERCULOSIS:

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year 1949:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0
5—15	0	0	0	0
15—25	0	1	0	0
25—35	1	1	1	0
35—45	1	0	0	1
45—55	0	0	0	0
55—65	1	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	2	1	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

These will be reported upon in the Sanitary Inspector's Section. In my last report reference was made to the Waterworks. Now that the undertaking has been taken over by the Council it is hoped that efforts will be made, where possible, to supply all dwellings within the Urban Area with a piped water supply.

In conclusion, as this is likely to be my last Annual Report, I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation received from the Council during my term of office, and of the assistance rendered to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ffrangcon Evans.

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,

Cae'rffynnon,
DOLGELLEY.

R. W. EDWARDS,
B.SC., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
Year ended 31st December, 1949

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to place before you my second annual report.

HOUSING:

The year 1949 saw the first post war housing scheme completed with 19 houses fully occupied. Two other schemes were commenced during the year comprising of 34 houses, and of these 16 have already been occupied.

The need for housing accommodation is still a problem, therefore it has been rather difficult to advise the Council on what action they should take regarding houses that become vacant when tenants are moved to new Council houses. It was decided not to take any action when the first 19 houses were let but 'Time and Place' notices have since been issued when houses considered unfit are about to become vacant.

In dealing with the question of repairs to unfit houses I have taken into consideration that it would be unwise to require heavy expenditure at the present time on such property especially as this might be a hindrance to a more thorough treatment of the bad conditions at a later date.

Particulars of action taken are given below:

Defects or nuisances found	52 (premises)
Number abated	52
Numbers of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal notices	12

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
   (a) By owners 1
   (b) By Local Authority in default... ... ... nil

No proceedings were taken under Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT:

By the use of the Points Scheme a further 20 tenants were selected, 6 for Ardd Fawr and 14 for Froheulog. One transfer was arranged which provided another vacant house in the town. I would again recommend to the Council to encourage transfer and exchange of tenants where it assists in the fuller use of the accommodation.

Tenants who have moved to the new houses have, on the whole, to be congratulated on the way they have adapted themselves to their new surroundings.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 58:

It is to be regretted that the premises reported upon in my Annual Report for 1948, namely Victoria Buildings and Siop Goch, are still in the same condition, and although the owner of Siop Goch has since received planning permission, the detriment still remains.

Public Cleansing:

All figures under this heading refer to the financial year ended 31st March, 1950.

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

Twice weekly collections of household refuse on Wednesday and Saturday mornings were made throughout the year.

The Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicle has now been in use for nearly 16 months. The figures showing the cost of the service as compared with the year 1948 speak for themselves.

Tipping was continued at the quarry site on Talyllyn Road, and attempts were made to control the tip as far as it was practicable.

The Bin Service, mentioned in the last report, was introduced in April 1949 and a total of 108 Bins have been issued up to date.

Salvage:

Occupiers of premises, especially of shops, continued to save wastepaper, and the collection service was maintained weekly.

In the event of the international situation making it necessary again for all local authorities to be directed to collect wastepaper, it will be far better for an authority to have the nucleus of a scheme operating, so long as income meets expenditure.

This, and the fact that most of the paper would in any event have to be collected, should be sufficient reasons for continuing the service.

The Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal including Salvage for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1950, was made up as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Materials, Rents, etc.	129	14	7
Lorry Account	86	13	6
Labour	339	9	9
	555	17	10
Salvage Income	253	7	5
Nett Cost	£302	10	5
Cost as Rate in the £			8d.
Cost per 1,000 population	£120	16	0

Street Cleansing:

The service included street sweeping and gulley cleansing on unclassified roads.

Cost of the service for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1950, amounted to £130/19/1.

Public Conveniences:

The new convenience was opened in July, 1949, and it is considered a valuable asset to the sanitary services of he town.

The Medical Officer of Health has mentioned the provision of services in connection with the National Eisteddfod 58 Water-closets discharging to cesspools were provided, arrangements made for special collection of refuse and ample water supply provided for drinking and flushing purposes. Adjoining local authorities were very helpful in providing on loan, pipes, fittings, etc.

Costing for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1950:

	£	s.	d.
Materials	40	10	11
Labour	50	11	7
Total maintenance cost	91	2	6
Income ...	£106	12	4

Disinfection and Disinfestation:

Disinfection was carried out at 3 premises.
Action had to be taken in one instance regarding vermin.

SEWERAGE :

The Outfall Sewer was completed in July 194 . The extension sewer to the north of the town was immediately commenced and has since been completed ; the Council's Sewage Works at Ardd Fawr have thus been superseded.

RIVER POLLUTION :

Residents near the Aran River and at Pandyrodyn continue to throw refuse into the rivers. It is to be regretted that this insanitary habit still persists in the heart of a National Park and when the Council are providing twice-weekly collection of refuse service.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION :

Slaughtering was continued at the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse, and animals slaughtered were inspected prior to the meat leaving the premises.

Some improvements were carried out to the buildings, but they still remain far from satisfactory. Representatives of the Ministries of Work and Food recently informed me that tenders have been invited for major alterations to the premises. It is to be hoped that the work will be carried out at an early date.

The figures relating to meat inspection given below show a very high percentage of the cattle inspected affected with diseases, especially cows. This should not cause alarm as most of the cows affected had been sent to the slaughterhouse as casualties and previously known to be diseased. Very likely had there been a knackers yard within easy reach some of these animals would not have found their way to the slaughterhouse. At the same time it is satisfying to know that, because these animals were sent in, the meat condemned was disposed of through the official channels of the Ministry of Food for use in industrial processes.

	Beasts	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Pigs*	*Total*
Carcases incl. all organs ..	17	6	21	–	44
Forequarters	2	–	–	–	2
Part Forequarters	1	–	–	–	1
Hindquarters	2	–	–	–	2
Part Hindquarters	1	2	1	–	4
Heads	–	1	–	–	10
Plucks	.	–	–	2	2
Lungs	5	–	–	–	5
Livers	24	–	2	–	26
Hearts	3	–	–	–	3
Intestines	3	–	–	–	3
Kidneys	2	–	–	–	2
Sirloin	1	–	–	–	1

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	Cows	*Cattle excluding Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
Number killed	52	181	24	2572	33
Number inspected	52	181	24	2572	33
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned ..	13	4	6	21	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	19	16	2	3	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	61.5	11.0	33.3	0.9	6.1
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Diseases :

	Beasts	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Pigs*	*Total*
Tuberculosis	7	–	–	–	7
Cirrhosis	13	–	2	–	15
Angioma	8	–	–	–	8
Fevered	3	1	–	–	4
Emaciation	4	2	4	–	10
Abcesses	1	–	1	–	2
Cysts	1	1	–	–	2
Extensive Bruising	3	–	7	–	10
Dropsy	6	–	–	–	6
Inflamation	5	–	–	2	7
Actinomycosis	2	–	–	–	2
Joint Ill	–	1	–	–	1
Nephritis	1	–	–	–	1
Necrosis	1	–	–	–	1
Septic Metritis	1	–	–	–	1
Pleurisy	–	–	1	–	1
Moribund	–	–	11	–	11
Immaturity	–	3	–	–	3
Acute Pericarditis	1	–	–	–	1

Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption included the following:

28 Baskets of Cherries	88 Tins Milk
3 Crates of Plums	57 Tins Various Meats
6 Boxes of Greengages	52 Tins Soup
5 Boxes of Pears	45 Tins Various Soups
14 lbs. Cheese	43 Tins Various Fish
20 Packets Cheese	28 Tins Mustard
149 Tins, etc., Puddings	24 Jars Pickles
127 Tins, etc., Jams	18 @ 6lbs. Tins Corned Beef
122 Tins Various Vegetables	114 lbs. Beef (tainted)

Food thus surrendered was removed for destruction.

MILK SUPPLY:

Dealers Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	1
Persons registered to carry on the trade of Milk Distributors	2

ICE CREAM PREMISES:

No. of manufacturing retailers registered	3
No. of other retailers registered	1

WATER SUPPLY:

The water supplied to the town is ample and satisfactory. Unfortunately there is considerable wastage in the lower parts of the town resulting in a poor supply at times in the higher regions. Due to this excessive waste and corroded pipes some houses are entirely without water. Some time will elapse before matters can be rectified.

The results of sampling are shown below:

No.	Date	Sample taken at	B.Coli per 100 ml.	Faecal coli per cent.
1	6.4.49	Main Supply	8	0
2	12.7.49	Llwyn View	2	0

RODENT CONTROL:

Work of inspection and destruction was carried out during the year. The Council's tip, sewage works and sewers were treated with satisfactory results.

FACTORIES :

Fifty-two premises are registered within the Urban area under the Factories Act. Action had to be taken after attention had been drawn to defects by the Factory Inspector.

Number inspected	24
Defects found	8
Remedied	6

In conclusion, may I be permitted to express to the Council my appreciation of their continued confidence in me, and to thank the other officers for their assistance and co-operation.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

FF. EVANS,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

Gwasg y Dydd, Ltd., Dolgellau.